

1 1. A method of displaying recently accessed television channels
2 comprising the following steps:

3 determining whether a television channel has been recently selected by a
4 user;

5 adding the television channel to a list of selected channels if the television
6 channel was determined to be recently selected;

7 generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens,
8 each small display screen corresponding to one of the selected channels; and

9 displaying the primary display screen on a television through a web
10 browser program.

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12 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining step
13 comprises the step of monitoring whether the user selects a television channel
14 according to a predetermined method.

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16 3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the predetermined method
17 comprises selecting the television channel for a predetermined length of time.

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19 4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the predetermined method
20 comprises selecting the television channel from within one of the small display
21 screens.

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23 5. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the predetermined method
24 comprises entering an identifier corresponding to the television channel directly
25 into a device controlling a television tuner.

1 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein one of the small display
2 screens is active and corresponds to a currently selected television channel, the
3 active small display screen being differentiated from the remaining small display
4 screens.

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6 8. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of
7 enlarging the active small display screen to full-screen mode and removing the
8 remaining small display screens.

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10 9. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of
11 applying a focus to the active small display screen.

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13 10. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the following
14 steps:
15 generating a highlight box to enclose the active small display screen; and
16 moving the highlight box from the active small display screen to a second
17 small display screen to render active the second small display screen and to de-
18 select the active small display screen.

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20 11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the generating step
21 comprises the step of depressing an option button on a control unit to initiate
22 generation of the primary display screen.

1 12. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of
2 ordering the selected channels within the list in an order in which the selected
3 channels were selected.

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5 13. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the following
6 steps:

7 displaying a live television signal from the television channel in the active
8 small display screen;

9 changing to a second television channel within the active small display
10 screen; and

11 displaying a live television broadcast signal from the second television
12 channel in the active small display screen.

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14 14. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the following
15 steps:

16 displaying a live television broadcast signal from the television channel in
17 the active small display screen; and

18 displaying a still image of a corresponding channel in the remaining small
19 display screens.

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21 15. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the still image represents a
22 last image captured on the corresponding channel when the channel was de-
23 selected.

1 16. A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of
2 periodically updating the still image.

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4 17. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of
5 displaying still images captured from corresponding channels in at least one of the
6 small display screens.

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8 18. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of
9 occasionally updating the still images in the small display screens.

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11 19. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of
12 updating the still images in the small display screens in response to activation of a
13 button on a remote control unit.

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15 20. A method comprising the following steps:
16 generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens,
17 each small display screen corresponding to a recently selected channel;
18 displaying the primary display screen through a web browser program; and
19 applying a focus to one of the small display screens to designate the one
20 small display screen as active and containing a currently selected channel and to
21 differentiate the active small display screen from remaining ones of the small
22 display screens.

1 21. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the step of
2 enlarging the active small display screen to full-screen mode and removing the
3 remaining small display screens.

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5 22. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the step of
6 moving the focus from the active small display screen to a second small display
7 screen to render active the second small display screen and to de-select the active
8 small display screen.

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10 23. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the following
11 steps:

12 displaying a live television broadcast signal from the channel in the active
13 small display screen; and

14 displaying still images of corresponding channels in the remaining small
15 display screens.

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17 24. A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising the step of
18 occasionally updating the still images in the small display screens.

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20 25. A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising the step of
21 updating the still images in the small display screens in response to activation of a
22 button on a remote control unit.

1 26. A method comprising the following steps:
2 generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens,
3 each small display screen corresponding to a recently selected channel;
4 displaying the primary display screen through a web browser program; and
5 displaying still images captured from corresponding channels in the small
6 display screens.

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8 27. A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of
9 updating the still images in the small display screens.

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11 28. A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of
12 displaying a live television broadcast signal in at least one of the small display
13 screens.

1 29. A client system capable of receiving multiple television channels,
2 comprising:

3 a processor; and

4 a memory coupled to the processor, the memory having stored therein
5 executable instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the
6 processor to perform the following steps:

7 determining whether a television channel has been recently selected by
8 a user;

9 adding the television channel to a list of selected channels if the
10 television channel was determined to be recently selected;

11 generating a primary display screen having multiple small display
12 screens, each small display screen corresponding to one of the selected
13 channels; and

14 wherein the primary display screen comprises a screen image displayed
15 through an interactive display environment including World Wide Web
16 content.

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18 31. A client system as recited in claim 29, wherein the primary display
19 screen is a Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML) object.

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21 32. An Internet system, comprising:

22 at least one server system;

23 one or more of the client systems as recited in claim 29; and

24 a wide area network (WAN) interconnecting the server system and the one
25 or more client systems.

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2 **33.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
3 instructions for performing the following steps:

4 determining whether a television channel has been recently selected by a
5 user;

6 adding the television channel to a list of selected channels if the television
7 channel was determined to be recently selected;

8 generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens,
9 each small display screen corresponding to one of the selected channels; and

10 displaying the primary display screen on a television through a web
11 browser program.

12
13 **34.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
14 instructions for performing the following steps:

15 generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens,
16 each small display screen corresponding to a recently selected channel;

17 displaying the primary display screen through a web browser program; and

18 applying a focus to an active small display screen to designate the active
19 small display screen as containing a currently selected television channel and to
20 differentiate the active small display screen from remaining ones of the small
21 display screens.

1 35. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
2 instructions for performing the following steps:

3 generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens,
4 each small display screen corresponding to a recently selected channel;

5 displaying the primary display screen through a web browser program; and

6 displaying still images captured from corresponding channels in the small
7 display screens.

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9 36. In a set-top box system capable of receiving and presenting both
10 television and Web content on a television, a user interface executing on the set-
11 top box system comprising a primary display screen having multiple small display
12 screens, the primary display screen being displayed through a web browser
13 program and each small display screen corresponding to a channel recently
14 selected by a user, the user interface also having a movable focus to designate one
15 of the small display screens from remaining ones of the small display screens.

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